

# سورة المؤمنون



# The Believers

## A Visionary Journey to Al-Firdaus Al-A'la

23 ذو الحجة 1439

3.2.18

We need role models to follow, practical examples of the best believers. This is part of the success.

Nuh عليه السلام was the first messenger. He is told his formula of success, his mission, the actions of his

nation, and how he dealt with the. We also see the actions of Allah in his story.

Everything has been related to increase your faith. We must also understand the focus behind the story. Allah says :

إِن فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَاتٍ وَإِنْ كُنَّا لَمُبْتَلِينَ

This is the essence of the story. There are universal and practical signs in the surah, to help you increase your capital of faith in لا إله إلا الله, and His mercy. The signs are also a test; you will surely be tested after the ayaat are brought to you. Then you will succeed in the challenges of life.

Allah sent Nuh عليه السلام to his nation. He was the first messenger on earth. The ayaat or signs are of two types. Allah narrates the stories to us; these are آيات الشرعية, the legislative signs. The decree, actions of Allah and Nuh عليه السلام, are all آيات الكونية, the universal signs.

The messengers were the best believers; they didn't think only of their own belief, they invited others to believe as well. This is the elevated believer. This was also the approach of Nuh عليه السلام. This mission is for the benefit of everyone. Worship Allah alone, and this will not need anyone else. You must have taqwa; don't follow your desires by having more gods.

Nuh عليه السلام confirmed and negated. Why are you worshipping the idols? Don't you have taqwa? He made da'wah for 950 years, increasing his own faith in the process. When you tell others, you affirm the information in your own heart.

The people of Nuh عليه السلام were disbelievers, they were not successful. Their chiefs were very powerful and influential, and spoke for all of them. They disbelieved in the message, they worshipped idols. Allah tells us their reaction, and this is also a sign, because when you encounter disbelievers behaving in this same manner, it will increase the faith.

Look at the pattern of their denial. They were told : اغْبُدُوا اللَّهَ. They didn't directly refuse. They didn't address the main point, but went around and attacked the messenger. This is what we must understand. The disbelievers and the sinners can't deny the truth, so they will malign the carrier of the truth.

Their way of denial was so diplomatic and clever. The leaders or influencers we may call them in modern day jargon, didn't want the people to follow Nuh عليه السلام, so they attacked his integrity. The message was good and logical, the obvious truth. So they put obstacles by trying to demean the messenger, by saying that he was a human being, nothing special, just like them.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ فَقَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرِهِ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ

And We had certainly sent Noah to his people, and he said : O my people, worship Allah ; you have no deity other than Him; then will you not fear Him?

فَقَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ قَوْمِهِ مَا هَذَا إِلَّا بَشِيرٌ مِمَّا تُمْتَلِكُمْ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَتَفَضَّلَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَأَنْزَلَ مَلَائِكَةً مَا سَمِعْنَا بِهَذَا فِي آبَائِنَا الْأُولَىٰ

But the eminent among those who disbelieved from his people said : This is not but a man like yourselves who wishes to take precedence over you; and if Allah had willed [to send a messenger], He would have sent down angels. We have not heard of this among our forefathers

إِنَّ هُوَ إِلَّا رَجُلٌ بِهِ جِنَّةٌ فْتَرَبَّصُوا بِهِ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ  
He is not but a man possessed with madness, so wait concerning him for a time

قَالَ رَبِّ انصُرْنِي بِمَا كَذَّبُوا  
[Noah] said : My Lord, support me because they have denied me  
فَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ أَنْ اصْنَعْ الْفُلَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَوَحَيْنَا  
فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا وَفَارَ التَّنُّورُ فَاسْلُكْ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ زَوْجَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ وَأَهْلَكَ إِلَّا مَنْ سَبَقَ عَلَيْهِ الْقَوْلُ مِنْهُمْ وَلَا تَخَاطَبْنِي فِي الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِنَّهُمْ  
مَغْرُقُونَ

So We inspired to him : Construct the ship under Our observation, and Our inspiration, and when Our command comes and the oven overflows, put into the ship from each [creature] two mates and your family, except those for whom the decree [of destruction] has proceeded. And do not address Me concerning those who have wronged; indeed, they are to be drowned

فَإِذَا اسْتَوَيْتَ أَنْتَ وَمَنْ مَعَكَ عَلَى الْفُلِكِ فَقُلِ  
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي نَجَّانَا مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ  
And when you have boarded the ship, you and those with you, then say : Praise to Allah who has saved us from the wrongdoing people

وَقُلِ رَبِّ انزِلْنِي مُنْزَلًا مُبَارَكًا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْمُنزِلِينَ  
And say: My Lord, let me land at a blessed landing place, and You are the best to accommodate [us]  
إِن فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَاتٍ وَإِنْ كُنَّا لَمُبْتَلِينَ

Indeed in that are signs, and indeed, We are ever testing [Our servants]

23:23-30

They also attacked his intention, saying he wanted to be seen as above the general public, which is why he wanted them to follow him. They were trying to divert the attention of the people from the message. So they said if Allah wanted to guide them, he would have sent angels, a different creation, instead of a human being like them.

They also give another objection, saying they haven't heard anything like what Nuh عليه السلام was telling them by their ancestors. Nuh عليه السلام was the first messenger on earth, so there was no example from before. This is the challenge when you make da'wah, there will surely be obstacles. The people in position of authority will try to influence the people, specially if they are eloquent as well.

Another reason which the chiefs gave was that Nuh عليه السلام was insane. This would also deter the people from following him, and they would also look at the message with suspicion. As a last resort, they made a direct attack, saying : **فَتَرَيُّوْا بِهِ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ**. Nuh عليه السلام was a messenger, he carried the message, he didn't make it up himself. When he increased his da'wah, they increased their rejection.

What did Nuh عليه السلام do? Did he defend himself? No. He wanted them to believe in Allah, so he went to Allah. He made du'a to Allah, after 950 years of da'wah and rejection, when he was sure they would never change. So he said to Allah : **رَبِّ انصُرْنِي**, not to prove himself right, but to bring victory to the message. This was not for his sake, but for Allah. This can only happen when you are focused on your mission, and grounded by strong values. It doesn't matter to a believer what the people do or say. This is why the messengers could withstand personal attacks. The believer is so focused, his mission is so vast, even his du'a is vast. If your vision is blurry, you haven't put Al-Firdaus before your eyes.

How did Allah answer his du'a? Allah gave Nuh عليه السلام support through inspiration. Allah knows the hearts of His slaves. Allah could have saved him with **كُن**, but in life, everything is through means. Allah showed him the way to victory. When you ask Allah for Al-Firdaus Al-A'la, He will bring forward the means. Then it is upon you whether you take them or not.

Allah gave Nuh عليه السلام an elaborate procedure of tasks. The way to victory was to follow these tasks, step by step. The plan was in great detail, very clear. This makes following it easier too, giving more efficiency and productivity. He was instructed to build a ship, under the protection of Allah. Allah taught him, step by step. There were no ships on earth, no previous examples to copy, no construction which would float on water, and no water around either. This was the first ship to be built.

Your belief in Allah must be so strong, then He will show you the way, making it a picture before your eyes. Construct a ship, rely on Allah, follow instructions. Can you do this, even with all the facilities now at your disposal, with YouTube? Nuh عليه السلام didn't have any clue what to do, ships didn't exist in the world. This shows that Allah is the One who teaches. This will increase your faith.

Nuh عليه السلام was instructed to build a ship, as if he could see and hear Allah. When the command of Allah comes, the punishment for the disbelievers will commence. The signal was when the earth gushes forth water, even through the oven; this is such an unusual sign. When this happens, it was time to go on board the ship, taking all the believers, and pairs of all the animals. This was a way to preserve the species.

The believers are the ones who are worthy to be included in the household of Nuh عليه السلام. The word of Allah cannot come before your actions. The son and wife of Nuh عليه السلام were not believers, so they couldn't be included in his household, and were destined to drown. This situation revealed the reality that Allah already knew.

Allah warned Nuh عليه السلام not to seek the help of the disbelievers, not even talk to them. They were drowned even before it actually happened. Don't plead for their safety. The decision had already been taken.